

Response Amendment

USSN 08/660,460

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: LUDWIG, L. et al.

Docket No: VCOR-001/03 US

Serial No: 08/660,460

Art Unit: 2317

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Examiner: DINH, D.

For: NETWORK BASED VIDEO CONFERENCING AND DATA CONFERENCING SYSTEM

Assistant Commissioner of Patents

Application Processing Division

Washington, D.C. 20231

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AMENDMENT

Please make the following amendments to the claims in response to the First Office Action dated October 10, 1996.

1. (Twice Amended) A teleconferencing system for conducting a teleconference among a plurality of participants comprising:

- (a) a plurality of workstations each having
- a monitor for displaying visual images, and
- AV capture and reproduction capabilities for capturing and reproducing video images and spoken audio of the participants;

Certificate of Facsimile

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile addressed to Examiner Dung Dinh, Art Unit 2317, Facsimile Number (703) 308-5359, at United States Patent and Trademark office, Washington, D.C. 20231, at 11:35 a.m. on October 25, 1996.

Date: October 25, 1996

By: 21195114
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- (b) a first network providing a data path along which data can be shared among a plurality of the workstations;
- (c) a data conference manager for managing a data conference, during which the shared data is displayed on the workstation monitors of a plurality of the participants;
- (d) a second network [interconnecting the workstations and] providing an AV path, logically separate from the data path, [for carrying] along which AV signals [among the workstations, the AV signals] representing video images and spoken audio of the participants are carried between the workstations to define a videoconference; [and]
- (e) an AV conference manager [for managing]; and
- (f) a first software layer, at each workstation, configured to communicate with the AV conference manager over the first network to co-operate with, and thereby enable, the AV conference manager to control the reproduction of both the video image and spoken audio of one or more of the participants at the workstation of another of the participants by utilizing a network operating system and a protocol of the first network.

4 3. (Once Amended) The teleconferencing system of claim ²⁷~~22~~, wherein the first and second networks employ physically separate paths.

11 16. (Twice Amended) A method of conducting a teleconference among a plurality of participants comprising the steps of:

- (a) capturing video images and spoken audio of the participants [for reproduction];

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(b) reproducing captured video images and audio at a plurality of participant workstations, each having a monitor and including a videoconferencing control software layer, to create a videoconference;

((b)c) sharing data among the plurality of the workstations along a first network;

((c)d) managing a data conference, during which the shared data is displayed on the workstation monitors of the participants; and

C2 ((d)e) [managing a videoconference by] establishing communication between a central AV conference manager and the videoconferencing control software layer over the first network to enable the AV conference manager to control[ling] the reproduction of both the video image and spoken audio of one or more of the participants at the workstation of another of the participants, by utilizing a data network operating system and a data network protocol of the first network.

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17. (Once Amended) The method of claim ¹⁶~~16~~²⁴, wherein the AV signals carried among the workstations are either analog or digital signals or a combination of analog and digital signals.

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20. (Once Amended) The [teleconferencing system] ¹³method of claim ~~19~~¹³, wherein the signals are routed based on any one or more criteria from the group of criteria consisting of the actual state of the AV path, the anticipated state of the AV path, the cost of use of the AV path and the direction of the AV signals flow on the AV path.